

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1357

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KON

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E.O.M 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: TENSE LOCKHEED MOOD

REF: TOKYO 11604

SUMMARY: THERE HAS NOT BEEN A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE LOCKHEED CASE DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS BUT, AS EVERYONE WAITS FOR THE NEXT ARRESTS, THE MOOD IN POLITICAL CIRCLES HAS BECOME PALPABLY EXASPERATED AND TENSE. END SUMMARY.

1. ON AUGUST 3, TAKEO KIMURA, A LEADER OF THE TANAKA FACTION, LOUDLY CRITICIZED PRIMIN MIKI FOR ARRESTING A FORMER PRIME MINISTER IN THE FIRST PLACE AND THEN NOT PARDONING HIM. THE BITTERNESS OF THE CRITICISM FROM UNCLASSIFIED

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THE TANAKA CAMP WAS ECHOED IN SIMILAR CHARGES FROM

MEMBERS OF THE SHIINA AND FUKUDA FACTIONS AT AN IN-FORMAL PARTY-WIDE MEETING OF MIDDLE-RANKING AND YOUNGER CONSERVATIVES AT LDP HEADQUARTERS ON THE SAME DAY. THE MEETING WAS ONE OF A SERIES BY THE GROWING ANTI-MIKI GROUP. AT THE MEETING A FISTFIGHT BROKE OUT WHEN A TANAKA FACTION DIETMAN TOOK EXCEPTION TO A MIKI MAN'S STATEMENT THAT THE ARREST OF TANAKA HAD BEEN APPLAUDED BY THE PEOPLE. THE COMBATANTS DID NOT INJURE EACH OTHER BUT DID, IRONICALLY, ROUGH UP AN OHIRA FACTION MAN WHO TRIED TO SEPARATE THEM.

2. ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE TENSION WAS MIKI'S SHARP REACTION TO THE UNGUARDED REMARKS AND COY HINTS ABOUT THE LOCKHEED INVESTIGATIONS THAT JUSTICE MINISTER INABA HAS BEEN MAKING DURING RECENT SPEAKING TRIPS AROUND THE COUNTRY. IN PUBLICLY UPBRAIDING HIM MIKI SAID; "INABA SAYS SILLY THINGS...HE MUST BE CAREFUL ABOUT HIS WORDS AND DEEDS."

3. THERE ARE ALSO SIGNS OF STRAIN IN THE OPPOSITION CAMP. AS REFTEL REPORTED, LAST WEEK JCP CHAIRMAN MIYAMOTO ACCUSED ALL THE OTHER OPPOSITION PARTIES OF TAKING LDP MONEY IN EXCHANGE FOR COOPERATION IN THE DIET. THE COMMUNIST PETARD MAY, HOWEVER, TURN OUT TO BE OF THE SELF-HOISTING VARIETY. ON AUGUST 1 A SOCIALIST SPOKESMAN REPLIED TO THE CHARGE BY RESURRECTING THE MIYAMOTO AFFAIR. (MIYAMOTO WAS CHARGED BEFORE THE WAR WITH MURDERING A POLICE INFORMER.) PUBLICIZING THE CASE IS A HANDY WAY FOR THE SOCIALISTS TO DISCREDIT THE COMMUNISTS' RECENT ATTEMPTS TO SOFTEN THEIR IMAGE.

4. THE PROSECUTORS HAVE AS USUAL BEEN HARD AT WORK. THIS WEEK THEY ISSUED THE EXPECTED FOREIGN EXCHANGE LAW INDICTMENTS AGAINST MARUBENI'S HIYAMA AND ANA'S WATANABE AND HAVE SUGGESTED THEY NOW FEEL ABLE TO INDICT TANAKA ON BRIBERY-CUM-MALFEASANCE CHARGES INSTEAD OF ONLY ON SIMPLE BRIBE-TAKING. THEY HAVE SCHEDULED A GRAND STRATEGY MEETING OF SENIOR PROSECUTORS FOR AGUST 6 TO DISCUSS FURTHER INDICT-
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MENTS. THE PROSECUTORS HAVE ALSO BEEN INVESTIGATING THE SUICIDE OF TANAKA'S DRIVER-SECRETARY WHO WAS FOUND DEAD IN HIS CAR ON AUGUST 2 AFTER HIS RELEASE FROM TWO DAYS OF QUESTIONING. BUT WHAT PROSECUTORS HAVE NOT YET DONE IS WHAT EVERYONE IS WAITING SO TENSELY FOR THEM TO DO--ARREST MORE POLITICIANS.
SHOESMITH

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